



MontCAS Montana Comprehensive Assessment System August 2006 Newsletter

Welcome Back

2006-2007 MontCAS Testing Windows

September 11-19, 2006	CRT Modified Pilot, Grade 5, Math
February 13 – March 29, 2007	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math (MontCAS, Phase 2)
March 6 – March 29, 2007	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math (MontCAS, Phase 2)
March 22 – April 12, 2007	NRT, Grades 4, 8, and 11, Language Arts, Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science (MontCAS, Phase 1)
January 22-March 2, 2007	NAEP, Grades 4 and 8, Reading and Math. Details on page 8.

Testing Contractor Contact Information

MontCAS, Phase 1, the Iowa Tests

Meredith Durgin, Montana Program Manager

meredith_durgin@hmco.com or 800-767-8420 x6094

Carol Taylor Cann, Montana Assessment Consultant

carol taylor cann@hmco.com or 800-767-8420 x7113

MontCAS, Phase 2, the CRT and the CRT-Alternate

Sharon Houle, Montana CRT Program Manager

shoule@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901 x2186

Nancy Hall, Montana CRT Program Assistant

nhall@measuredprogress.org or 888-792-2741

Jake Goldsmith, Montana CRT-Alternate Program Manager

JGoldsmith@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901 x2239

MontCAS, Phase 2, the CRT-Modified Pilot

Ginger Mathews, Measured Progress CRT-Modified Program Manager 800-431-8901, Extension 2137 or gmathews@measuredprogress.org Measured Progress Montana CRT Pilot Helpdesk 888 792-2741

Current System Test Coordinator Information Needed

Thank you for providing information to the Office of Public Instruction about contact information for system test coordinators. Please continue to send changes to Judy Snow (<u>isnow@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-3656) as they occur.

The following contact information is needed: name, title, mailing address, shipping address, phone number, and email address. Current contact information makes it possible for the Office of Public Instruction to directly contact test coordinators with important and timely information.



Save the Dates

For the Spring 2007 **OPI Statewide Assessment Conference**

Tentative Dates: April 30 – May 1, 2007

Please Welcome Sandy McIntyre

OPI Assessment Assistant smcintyre@mt.gov or 406-444-4431

MontCAS Phase 1

Spring 2006 NRT Results

• Results of the Iowa Tests (MontCAS, Phase 1) were mailed by Riverside Publishing Company to districts in May and June. Included with the results was the 2006 Interpretive Guide. That Guide and a PowerPoint presentation, Reading the Reports, are online:

Interpretive Guide

<u>http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/NRT/06InterpGuide.pdf</u> PowerPoint

http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/NRT/06TCTraining.pdf

- In July, a report on preliminary statewide aggregated results was presented to the Board of Public Education. That report is online: http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/NRT/Results/06PrelimAggre.pdf
- The window for districts and schools to review their disaggregated results on a secure site closed on August 4, 2006.
- On November 2-3, 2006, the statewide disaggregated results will be presented to the Board of Public Education, and Reportable data will be posted online on the public site: http://data.opi.state.mt.us/irisreports/Report_Index.asp?Category=Assessment

MontCAS Phase 2



Many thanks to Montana educators for investing part of their summers working on CRT and CRT-Alternate test development activities. Over 300 Montana educators shared their time and professional expertise participating in workshops in June and July of 2006.

These activities included standard setting for grades 3-8 and 10 in Reading and Math for the CRT and the CRT-Alternate; content and bias reviews for grades 3-8 and 10 in Reading and Math; and preliminary content and bias reviews for grades 4, 8, and 10 in Science.

And, there will be future development opportunities. We encourage educators who were unable to participate in summer 2006 activities to complete an online application form so that we will be able to include you in the future.

The online form will require summer and school addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. Please look for the form and web address in the September 2006 *JUMP*.

Spring 2006 CRT and CRT-Alternate Results

The results of the spring 2006 CRT and CRT-Alternate assessment will be shipped by Measured Progress in September. Included in the shipment are the following:

- 2006 Interpretive Guide
- CD: 2006 Reading the Reports for the CRT and CRT-Alternate
- *iAnalyze* Guide

• The reports are listed and described in the following table.

Report	Description
Student Report	Parent-guardian report that provides each
	student's scores for the reading and
	mathematics tests.
Cumulative Folder	Label that provides each student's scores for
Label	the reading and mathematics tests.
Preliminary CRT	Provides information about class performance.
Roster and Item-	Each student in the class is listed on the roster
Level Report	which includes references to each item and
	standard it measures.
Preliminary	Three part summary shows distribution of
School Summary	scores in each Montana performance level by
Report	subgroup, school, system, and state.
Preliminary	Three part summary shows distribution of
System Summary	scores in each Montana performance level by
Report	subgroup, system, and state.
Student-level data	Excel file on a CD
files by system	

The paper copies of the roster/item, school summary and system summary reports are preliminary. The final copies of those reports will be posted on *iAnalyze* on October 3, 2006.



- During April, May, and June, OPI and Measured Progress provided extensive opportunities for systems and schools to verify demographic and enrollment data; however, in some cases, school codes were unrecognizable or incorrect.
- OPI and Measured Progress were able to reconcile many of these; however, should systems or schools discover a discrepancy related to system and school codes, please contact Judy Snow, September 18 26: jsnow@mt.gov or 406-444-3656.
- Because the window for resolving demographic discrepancies expired in June, discrepancies regarding demographic data will not be considered.
- Final reports will be posted on the *iAnalyze* site. These final reports will be for all systems and schools and will reflect final state, system, and school data. At that time all printed preliminary reports will be outdated. In the future, roster/item, school summary and system summary reports will posted directly online on a secure site and not provided in paper format.
- Below is a calendar for results.

September 8, 2006	Measured Progress will ship results.
September 15, 2006	Systems will receive results.
September 18-26, 2006	Window for reporting system or school code discrepancies to OPI. Please contact Judy Snow, 406-444-3656 OR jsnow@mt.gov
October 3, 2006	 Final summary reports will be posted on <i>iAnalyze</i>. The web address is: http://iservices.measuredprogress.org Please locate your password ahead of time. If you cannot locate it, please contact Judy Snow, 406-444-3656 or jsnow@mt.gov. Your <i>iAnalyze</i> site is secure. The passwords also need to remain secure. For help using <i>iAnalyze</i>, email the Measured Progress Help Desk: janalyzehelp@measuredprogress.org
October 2006	Released Items for all grades 3-8 and 10 in Reading and Mathematics will be placed online. Notification will follow.



Modified CRT

In the Spring of 2006, the Office of Public Instruction was awarded a grant to evaluate the feasibility of using a modified version of the Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT). The purpose of a modified version of the CRT is to expand the options to assess the performance of students with disabilities.

The performance of students with disabilities who took the regular grade 4 CRT in the spring of 2006 will be compared with their performance on a modified version of the test that they will take as grade 5 students in September of 2006.

The dates for the preparation and pilot of the modified version of the CRT are:

Week of May 22, 2006	Test coordinators received a memo with detailed information. The memo was mailed by Measured Progress.
September 1-6, 2006	System Test Coordinators will receive testing materials from Measured Progress.
September 11 – 19, 2006	Testing Window for the pilot of the modified version of the CRT for grade 5 students.
September 25, 2006	Deadline for materials to be returned to Measured Progress.

Below is contact information for questions about the CRT-Modified.

- For information about program administration issues:
 - o Ginger Mathews, Measured Progress CRT-Modified Program Manager 800-431-8901, Extension 2137 or gmathews@measuredprogress.org
 - Measured Progress Montana CRT Pilot Helpdesk 888 792-2741
- For information about accommodations:
 - Gail McGregor, University of Montana
 (406) 243-2348 or mcgregor@ruralinstitute.umt.edu
- For information about program policy issues, student participation, test security:
 - o Judy Snow, State Assessment Director 406-444-3656 or jsnow@mt.gov

iAnalyze and Released Item Training Opportunities

In October 2006, released items from the spring 2006 CRT and CRT-Alternate will be online. In addition, 2006 data will be included on *iAnalyze*.

The Office of Public Instruction will offer training on the use of the released items and *iAnalyze*. If your system is interested in hosting training in November, December, or January, please contact Sandy McIntyre, 406-444-4431, smcintyre@mt.gov.

Hosting involves providing space for educators in your system and educators from others in the region.



Other Assessment News

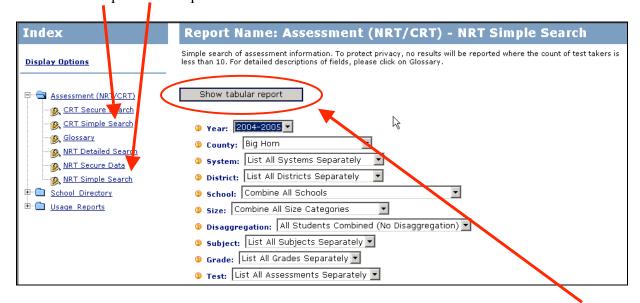
Coach's Corner: Test Results

Test results for both MontCAS Phase 1 (NRT—Iowa Tests) and Phase 2 (CRT) are posted online. Currently, test results from 2004-2005 and prior years are available on the OPI web site.

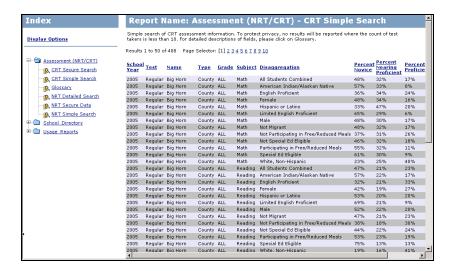
The following directions and guidelines are some of the ways you can find the test results on the OPI web site. You can see spreadsheet views for either the NRT or CRT assessments, view bar graphs of the CRT score summaries, and/or access NRT reports submitted to the Board of Public Education.

To find the spreadsheets, go to the <u>Assessment-MontCAS</u> web page and choose Test Results. This takes you to the IRIS Reports page. You can also access the IRIS Reports page from the OPI home page at <u>www.opi.mt.gov</u> by choosing IRIS from the menu bar across the top of the page. Once at the IRIS page, press the <u>View Reports</u> button on the right side of the page. You do not have to log in to select the View Reports button.

Once you get to the IRIS Reports page, click on <u>Assessment (NRT/CRT)</u> on the left side of the page to expand the menu. The Secure Search choices require a username and password; these options are used by schools to verify data before it is posted publicly. Choose the Simple Search option for either NRT or CRT.



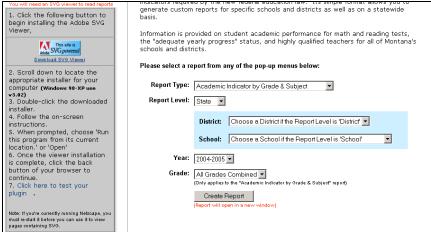
Customize your report by choosing from the dropdown lists and then clicking on the **Show** tabular report button.



Depending on the choices you made, your report may be more than one page long; use the page selector to move to the next page. Use the scroll bars at the bottom and right side of the screen to view all the columns. Click on any column heading to sort the data by that column. The sorted column heading will appear in red.

You can save this report as an Excel spreadsheet for further sorting and analysis. Click on the <u>Create Excel</u> button at the bottom of any page. Choose <u>Save</u> and designate a location for the spreadsheet. Use the default name or create your own; the default name includes today's date.

♣ Bar graphs of CRT data are available from the Academic Indicator Report on the NCLB Report Card. To view these, open the OPI home page at www.opi.mt.gov, and select NCLB Report Card from the grey menu bar. You many need to install the Adobe SVG viewer to read reports. Follow the instructions in the gray box on the left side of the Report Card page. The download should only take a couple of minutes, depending on your internet connection.



To view test results, choose *Academic Indicator by Grade & Subject* from the Report Type list. You can view data for the whole state, or by a specific district or school. Select a year and which grade or grades you would like to view. Click the <u>Create Report</u> button. The report opens in a new window; close it to return to this page and modify your selections.

NRT reports submitted to the Board of Public Education. OPI reports aggregated NRT test results to the Board of Public Education at its July meeting and disaggregated results at a fall meeting. Those reports are on the MontCAS web site http://www.opi.mt.gov/Assessment/Phase1.html#TA

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Welcome to Mike Chapman, the new Montana NAEP coordinator. Formerly a data analyst for OPI, Mike will coordinate all NAEP activities.

Between January 22 and March 2, 2007 Montana students will participate in NAEP assessments in grades 4, 8, and 12 in reading, mathematics and writing. Students are asked to participate in only one subject.

Selected schools were notified in June 2006. Each school will identify a contact person to supply an electronic list of students and assist with some logistics. NAEP field staff will conduct the assessment and provide materials.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, states receiving Title I funds must participate in the NAEP Assessment in grades four and eight in Reading and Mathematics.

Important dates and information

- Electronic filing of student lists: October 1 November 17, 2006 (deadline)
- Testing window: January 22 March 2, 2007
- Administered by NAEP Field Staff in a single testing session (90 minutes)

For more information, visit the NAEP website at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard or contact Mike Chapman, Office of Public Instruction, at 406-444-3450, mchapman@mt.gov



Contact Information

Office of Public Instruction
Judy Snow, State Assessment Director
406-444-3656 jsnow@mt.gov